



### WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

We invite you to join the partnership. You can become a Reserve Police Officer, join a Community Neighborhood Watch Group, attend the Citizen's Police Academy, become a Police Volunteer, participate in a citizen ride-along or just communicate your concerns and ideas to our Officers.

*Together, we can make a difference!*

For more information contact:

COMMUNITY ACTION  
&  
INFORMATION UNIT  
(650) 903-6357 OR (650) 903-6707

City of Mountain View Police Department  
1000 Villa Street  
Mountain View, CA 94041

**Web Site Address:**  
<http://www.mvpd.gov>  
**Email Address:**  
[police@mountainview.gov](mailto:police@mountainview.gov)  
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AT HOME ALONE  
A PARENT'S GUIDE  
MOUNTAIN VIEW POLICE DEPARTMENT

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Make sure your children are old enough and mature enough to care for themselves.
- Teach them basic safety rules.
- Know the three “W’s”: Where your kids are, What they’re doing, and Who they’re with.

## EXAMPLE:

**Y**our ten-year-old comes home from school at 3:00, but you don't get home from work until 5:00. He's at home alone for those two hours every weekday. What does he do until you arrive?

Most likely, he gets a snack or talks on the phone. Maybe he watches TV. But since you're not there, you worry.

Just like the majority of American parents who work and have to leave their children on their own after school everyday, you are anxious about your child's safety.

By following the safeguards listed in the pamphlet, you can help ease some of the worry and take measures that will protect your kids even when you're not around.

## ARE THEY READY? CAN YOUR CHILDREN:

- Be trusted to go straight home after school?
- Easily use the telephone, locks and kitchen appliances?
- Follow rules and instructions well?
- Handle unexpected situations without panicking?
- Stay alone without being afraid?

## A WORD ABOUT CURIOSITY...

Are there things you don't want your children go get into? Take the time to talk to them about the deadly consequences of guns, medicines, power tools, drugs, alcohol, cleaning products, and inhalants. Make sure you keep these items in a secure place out of sight and locked up.

## TEACH YOUR “HOME ALONE” CHILDREN

- To check in with you or a neighbor immediately after arriving home.
- How to call 911.
- How to give directions to your home, in case of emergency.
- To never accept gifts or rides from people they don't know well.

- How to use the door and window locks, and the alarm system if you have one.
- To never let anyone into your home without asking your permission.
- To never let a caller at the door or on the phone know that they're alone. Teach them to say “Mom can't come to the phone (or door) right now.”
- To carry a house key with them in a safe place (inside a shirt pocket or sock). Don't leave it under a mat or on a ledge outside the house.
- How to escape in case of fire.
- To not go into an empty house or apartment if things don't look right - a broken window, ripped screen, or opened door.
- To let you know about anything that frightens them or makes them feel uncomfortable.

## TAKING A STAND...

- Reinforce with your children on a regular basis how to best protect themselves at home and on their way home from school.
- Get to know your child's friends and their parents. Always have an up-to-date phone and address list of their friends.
- Identify neighbors that you feel comfortable with your child going to in the case of an emergency.
- Have your children fingerprinted every 3 years. The Police Department offers this service through our Police Explorer Program.
- Keep a current picture of your child in your residence.
- Always provide your children with a telephone number where you can be reached as well as other relatives and neighbors.